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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,966	07/14/2003	Andrew Harvey Barr	200205324	5920

7590 02/03/2005
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

VU, PHUONG T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2841

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,966

Applicant(s)

BARR ET AL

Examiner

Phuong T. Vu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5-10,14-18,20-28,30-34 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-4,11-13,19,29,35 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The indicated allowability of independent claims 1, 10, 18, 22 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Wetherbee (US 4,068,290). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 5-10, 14-18, 20-28, 30-34, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wetherbee (US 4,068,290). Regarding claim 1, the reference discloses a short card support 18 for supporting a short printed circuit card 16 inserted into an electronic system (comprising panel 17, 10, 11), the short printed circuit card having a card guide edge (adjacent to panel 17) adapted to couple to a first card guide of the electronic system (through connector necessarily provided but not shown) and a first edge (opposite end) not coupled to the electronic system, the short card support comprising, a card guide end (end of 18 adjacent to panel 17) adapted to insert into a second card guide 21 of the electronic system, a card receptor end (opposite end of card guide) adapted to couple with the first edge of the short printed circuit card and a support span 23 connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end.

Regarding claim 5, the short card support is made from an electrically non-conducting material.

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Regarding claim 6, the electrically non-conducting material is selected from the group consisting of plastics, particle filled plastics, sintered materials, and inorganic materials.

Regarding claim 7, the short card support is made from non-inflammable material.

Regarding claim 8, it appears that the short support has a fixed length of less than 12 inches.

Regarding claim 9, it appears that the card receptor end is width adjustable to accommodate varying thickness cards as the reference teaches that card guide is flexible, so that the area which receives the card guide would be flexible and slightly adjustable.

Regarding claim 10, the reference discloses a short printed circuit card assembly insertable into an electronic system (comprising panel 17, 10, 11) comprising a printed circuit card 16 having a card guide edge (adjacent to panel 17) adapted to couple to a first card guide of the electronic system (through connector necessarily provided but not shown) and a first edge (opposite edge) and a card support 18 configured to couple to the first edge of the printed circuit card, the card support including a card guide end (end of 18 adjacent to panel 17) adapted to insert into a second card guide 21 of the electronic system, a card receptor end (opposite end) adapted to couple to the first edge of the printed circuit card, and a support span 23 connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end.

Regarding claims 14-17, please refer to the rejection above.

Regarding claim 18, the reference discloses a short printed circuit card assembly inserted into an electronic system (comprising panel 17, 10, 11) comprising a printed circuit card 16 mechanically coupled to the electronic system on a first edge (edge opposite to edge adjacent panel 17) and necessarily mechanically and electrically coupled to the electronic system on a connector edge at panel 17, and a printed card support 18 comprising a card guide end (end of 18 adjacent 17) inserted into a card guide 21 of the electronic system opposite the first edge, a card receptor end (opposite end of 18) coupled with the second edge of the printed circuit card, and a support span connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end.

Regarding claim 20-21, please refer to the above rejection.

Regarding claim 22, the reference discloses a short card support 18 for supporting a short printed circuit card 16 adapted to couple to an electronic system (comprising 17, 10, 11) defining a first card guide (comprising 10, 11) and an opposing second card guide 21, the short printed circuit card having a card guide edge (top or bottom edge) adapted to couple to the first card guide and a first edge, the short card support comprising a card guide end (adjacent 17) adapted to insert into the second card guide of the electronic system, a card receptor end (opposite end of short card support) adapted to couple with the first edge of the short printed circuit card, a support span 23 connecting the card guide end and the card receptor end, and means (comprising head-portion of 18, 19, 20, 25 and screws) for selectively positioning the card receptor end for reception of the first edge of the short printed circuit card.

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Regarding claim 23, the means for selectively positioning the card receptor end includes a stop assembly 19, 20.

Regarding claim 24, the means for selectively positioning the card receptor end includes a clasp (head-portion of 18).

Regarding claim 25, the means for selectively positioning the card receptor end includes a pin (screw).

Regarding claim 26, the reference discloses a method of supporting a short printed circuit card 16 having a first edge (adjacent to openings 27 in guides 10, 11), a second edge (adjacent 17), the short printed circuit card insertable into an electronic system having card guides (21, and 10, 11), the method comprising coupling the first edge of the short printed circuit card to a first card guide (adjacent openings 27 of 10, 11) of the electronic system, and supporting the second edge of the short printed circuit card with a short card support 18 comprising a card receptor end (adjacent to openings 27 in guides 10, 11) removably attached to the second edge of the short printed circuit card, a card guide end (end of 18 adjacent 17) adapted to removably insert into a second card guide 21 of the electronic system, and a support span 23 connecting the card receptor end and the card guide end.

Regarding claim 27, the short printed circuit card necessarily includes a connector edge insertable into a connector plane of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 28, the method further comprises electrically and mechanically coupling the connector edge of the short printed circuit card to the connector plane 17 of the electronic system.

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Regarding claim 30, the reference discloses an electronic system (comprising 17, 10, 11) comprising a first card guide (10, 11), a second card guide 21 generally opposing the first card guide, a short card 16 inserted into the electronic system, the short card having a card guide edge (top or bottom edges of short card) coupled to the first card guide and a first edge (front edge of short card) not coupled to a card guide in the electronic system and a support 23 extending from the first edge of the short card into the second card guide of the electronic system.

Regarding claim 31, the support is a short card support.

Regarding claim 32, because of its flexibility, the short card support is an adjustable short card supports.

Regarding claim 33, the short card support includes a card guide end 19 adapted to couple to the second card guide 21 of the electronic system, a card receptor end (opposing end) adapted to couple with the first edge of the short card, and a support span 23 connecting the card guide end the card receptor end.

Regarding claim 34, the card receptor end is slightly width adjustable and may accommodate slightly varying thickness short cards.

Regarding claim 37, the electronic system is a computer system.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 2-4, 11-13, 19, 29, 35-36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejected claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-2111. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. & Tues., 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kammie Cuneo can be reached on (571) 272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Phuong T. Vu
Patent Examiner
Group 2841